

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW TASMANIAN
HELICES.

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*(From a Paper read before the Royal Society of Tasmania, 12th Nov., 1878.)*1. *Helix Dyeri*, n. sp.

Shell small, imperforate, depressedly discoid, thin, very highly polished, finely irregularly striated with lines of growth above and below, glassy yellow with irregular more or less distant rays of reddish-chestnut; spire depressed, small; whorls $3\frac{1}{2}$, flatly slanting outwards, last much distended, not descending in front, suture faintly impressed; aperture lunately-ovate, margins faintly approaching, joined by a rather thick deposit of callus, columellar margin dilated, entirely covering the perforation.

Diam., greatest $3\frac{1}{2}$, least $2\frac{1}{2}$; height $1\frac{1}{2}$ mil.

Habitat—In the thick mass of vegetation growing on the banks of Distillery Creek, near Launceston.

Under the lens a very pretty glossy species, that cannot possibly be mistaken for any other Tasmanian species. Its nearest ally is *Helix Nelsonensis* Brazier, from which it differs in being imperforate and is more often rayed with chestnut markings. Like the great majority of land shells it is a moist-loving species. Extremely rare and difficult to find.

2. *H. Roblini*, n. sp.

Shell small, deeply and narrowly unbilicate, discoid, white, finely, closely and regularly striated above and below, striæ abruptly terminating at the apical whorls ($1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2), which are distinctly spirally striate, with thread-like striæ; spire flat; whorls $4\frac{1}{2}$ slowly increasing in size, last rounded;

suture deeply excavate; aperture roundly lunate, not descending, margins distant, joined by an extremely thin deposit of callus; columella not dilated.

Diam., greatest $2\frac{3}{4}$, least 2; height 1 mil.

Habitat—Distillery Creek, near Launceston.

Of rare occurrence, attached to the under surface of large boulders in moist places. Easily recognised by the sudden termination of the striæ on the apical whorls and the pure white color.

3. *H. Kershawi*, n. sp.

Shell small, with a deep open umbilicus, depressed, thin, shining-brown, marked with black lines of growth, finely striated throughout with raised riblets, the interstices of which are strongly decussated; spire faintly sunk, often flat; suture much impressed; whorls $4\frac{1}{2}$, rather convex, last rounded, descending slightly in front and flattened above; aperture triangularly-ovate; margins distant, basal a little everted, joined by a very thin polished callus.

Diam., greatest 3, least $2\frac{1}{2}$; height $1\frac{1}{4}$ mil.

Habitat—Distillery Creek, near Launceston.

I have collected a considerable number of this species on the banks of the creek under the vegetation that covers the large boulders and rocks. Found in company with *H. neglecta* Brazier and *H. Halli* Cox.

4. *H. mimosa*, n. sp.

Shell small, openly umbilicated, reddish-brown, irregularly rayed and blotched with pure white, which markings are more conspicuous above than below; regularly closely striated throughout with slightly waved, thread-like striæ; spire flat; suture impressed; whorls $4\frac{1}{2}$, convex, apical, smooth, the last narrow, rounded, not descending, below striated as

above and descending into the deep open, perspective umbilicus; aperture lunate, margins approximating, columellar margin neither dilated nor reflected.

Diam., greatest 2, least $1\frac{1}{4}$; height 1 mil.

Habitat—First-basin near Launceston, among mosses on the branches and trunks of trees.

A prettily marked flat species of very constant and distinct character. In form it resembles *H. Belli* Cox, from New South Wales.

5. *H. Spiceri*, n. sp.

Shell perforate, turbinate-globose, thin, yellow-brown, shining; above obliquely striate and conspicuously decussate, base of body whorl almost smooth and much more shining than upper surface; whorls 5, convex, gradually increasing in size; spire obtusely conical, last slightly angled, not descending in front; aperture irregularly lunate; peristome thin, margins distant, joined by a thin but distinct callus; columellar margin slightly expanded.

Diam., greatest $1\frac{1}{4}$; height $1\frac{1}{4}$ mil.

Habitat—South Tasmania.

I am not quite certain as to the exact locality where this minute but very distinct form was collected. It has a general resemblance to *H. parvissima* Cox, but that species is smooth; it cannot therefore be mistaken for that nor in fact any other described species.

6. *H. Wynyardensis*, n. sp.

Shell with a narrow but deep umbilicus, convexly depressed, rather thick, reddish-brown above and yellowish-white beneath, dull, covered with a thin epidermis; striated with prominent rounded riblets above and below, the interstices with much finer striæ and decussate; spire small, only very slightly elevated; whorls $5\frac{1}{2}$, moderately convex,

suture impressed, last large and inflated; aperture lunately-ovate; peristome thin; margins approximating, right somewhat depressed, columellar margin a little expanded.

Diam., greatest 11, least 9; height 4 mil.

Habitat—Table Cape, scrubs among decaying timber.

A distinct species belonging to the group of *Helix Hamiltoni* Cox and *H. Stephensi* Cox, but differs from any by its coloration and prominent riblets above and below. Rare and restricted to the locality given.

7. *H. rosacea*, n. sp.

Shell widely umbilicated, depressed, rusty-brown, indistinctly rayed with darker shade, dull, irregularly somewhat closely striated with rounded and slightly waved striæ, interstices with very fine striæ; spire flat; suture impressed; whorls 5, convex, last rounded, a little descending; base convex, ornamented with striations the same as upper surface; umbilicus large and very open, somewhat shallow and flat at the bottom; aperture ovately-lunate, slightly flattened above; margins approaching; peristome simple, acute.

Diam., greatest 6, least 5; height 2 mil.

Habitat—Rifle-butts near Launceston, in great numbers; gregarious at the roots of Briar-bushes. (R. M. Johnston). Closely allied to *H. Legrandi* Cox and *H. McDonaldi* Cox, but differs principally from either in its very open umbilicus and the coloration. It is individually one of the most abundant species I have met with in this island, it may literally be collected by thousands at the locality given, where it was first observed by Mr. R. M. Johnston. I have not, strange to say, met with it elsewhere.

8. *H. Jungermannia*, n. sp.

Shell small, with a narrow deep umbilicus, thin, obliquely, strongly and irregularly striated with lines of growth and

very indistinct traces of spiral lines, brown with a bronze-like lustre; spire moderately elevated; apex often corroded; whorls $4\frac{1}{2}$, much rounded, last somewhat depressed; aperture roundly-lunate; peristome simple; margins approaching, joined by a thin callus, columellar margin faintly dilated.

Diam., greatest 3, least 2; height $1\frac{1}{4}$ mil.

Habitat—Cataract, near Launceston, in considerable numbers on the rocks under masses of *Jungermannia*. It has a close relation to *H. sitiens* Cox and *H. neglecta* Brazier, but may be distinguished from the first by the want of the regular prominent riblets and from the latter by its bronze-like general aspect and by not having the segments of color so persistent in that species.

9. *H. Mathinnæ*, n. sp.

Shell steeply somewhat narrowly umbilicated, depressed, covered with very prominent ribs, which are irregularly plicately fringed, widely apart and often faintly irregular in deposition and becoming almost obsolete at the apex; shining, horny, almost waxy appearance; interstices and ribs again striated, parallel with the ribs and also faintly transversely, giving the irregular crenated appearance to the base of the ribs; spire depressed; suture deep; whorls 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$, rapidly increasing, convex, last rounded, not descending in front, base sculptured as upper surface and descending into the deep umbilicus, which is rounded at the bottom; intercostal spaces of base conspicuously decussate; aperture roundly-lunate; peristome acute; columellar margin not reflected.

Diam., greatest $6\frac{1}{2}$, least $5\frac{1}{2}$; height $2\frac{3}{4}$ mil.

Habitat—Near First-basin, Launceston, under stones.

The most beautifully sculptured of our known *Helices*, and one that cannot be mistaken for any other. The nearest

to it is *H. curaçœ* Brazier, but it differs from that species by its more elaborate ornamentation.

10. *H. Furneauxensis*, n. sp.

Shell minute, narrowly umbilicate, conoid, shining, horny, under the lens finely irregularly striated; whorls $4\frac{1}{2}$, rounded; suture impressed; spire a little elevated, obtuse at the apex; aperture almost circular; margins closely approaching; peristome simple; columellar margin faintly dilated.

Diam., greatest $2\frac{1}{2}$, height 1 mil.

Habitat—Furneaux Group and Waterhouse Island, Bass Straits.

A minute species with some resemblance to *H. Halli* Cox, but from which it can be known by its larger size, less elevated spire, and more open umbilicus.

11. *H. Henryana*, n. sp.

Shell minute, very openly, deeply umbilicated, discoidal, light-brown, very highly polished, with very faint traces of lines of growth; whorls $3\frac{1}{2}$, convex, regularly increasing in size; suture impressed; spire slightly elevated; aperture lunate; columellar margin not dilated.

Diam., greatest $1\frac{1}{2}$, least 1; height $\frac{3}{4}$ mil.

Habitat—Domain, Hobart Town.

Of this little shell I have only seen two specimens; they were found by my brother at the locality mentioned. Although approaching *H. Furneauxensis* mihi and *H. Halli* Cox, it may be known by its depressed form and shining smooth surface. I obtained some years ago specimens of a shell at Circular Head, in company with *H. cæsus* Cox and *H. pictilis* Tate, which may be of this species, but I have not now the specimens.

12. *H. Trucanini*, n. sp.

Shell perforated, depressly convex, of a deep rich brown, shining, obliquely striate throughout with lines of growth, many of which are distantly irregularly prominent, crossed by fine minute, spiral striæ, giving the shell under the lens a granular appearance; whorls 4, convex, impressed at the suture; apex obtuse and rounded, descending very little in front; periphery rounded; base convex, sculptured same as upper surface; perforation small and deep; mouth lunately rounded; lip thin, acute; margins distant, joined by a thin, smooth, polished callus; columellar margin dilated and almost concealing the perforation.

Diam., greatest $2\frac{1}{2}$, least 2; height $1\frac{3}{4}$ mil.

Habitat—Near First-basin, Launceston. Gregarious among mosses in the branches and on trunks of trees; also more sparingly on rocks overgrown by moss.

Although allied to *H. neglecta* Brazier and *H. Jungermanniæ* mihi, it is nevertheless very distinct by its smaller size, different color, and the umbilicus is small and almost concealed.

13. *H. Lottah*, n. sp.

Shell openly umbilicated, depressed, discoid, translucent, thin, white, scarcely shining; regularly, rather coarsely ribbed throughout, interstices with extremely fine striæ; spire flat; suture moderately impressed; whorls $4\frac{1}{2}$, slightly convex, apical ($2\frac{1}{2}$) quite smooth, last rounded, not descending in front; below, with striæ as above, running into the somewhat shallow, open umbilicus, which is flattened at the bottom; aperture lunate; peristome simple, thin.

Diam., greatest $2\frac{3}{4}$, least 2; height 1 mil.

Habitat—Cataract Hill, near Launceston, on the under surface of large boulders.

A pure white species allied to *H. Roblini* mihi, but that species is finely striated throughout and its umbilicus is not nearly so open. To *H. Bassi* Brazier, it is so closely related that it may possibly be but a variety, but it is much smaller, has a much less shallow umbilicus and the riblets are coarser than in its larger congener. All three are of the same habits, found on the under surface of boulders, generally in rather dry situations, and all are of extreme rarity.

14. *H. Barrenensis*, n. sp.

Shell small, discoid, thin, regularly, somewhat closely ribbed; under the lens the interstices strongly decussate; embryonal whorl smooth, horny brown; spire much submerged gradually; whorls $5\frac{1}{2}$, last rounded, base with ribs as above, umbilicus widely open, shallow, freely exposing the whorls; aperture vertical, semilunar, faintly flattened above; peristome simple.

Diam., greatest 2, least $1\frac{3}{4}$; height 1 mil.

Habitat—Furieux Group, Bass Straits. (Mr. R. M. Johnston).

Invariably in clusters, gregarious in shallow depressions on the sand hillocks. Closely allied to *H. lirata* Cox, from New South Wales.

Hobart Town, Tasmania,

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